Reply of Government.—May be referred to the Public Works Department for report.

SUBJECT No. 167.

Levy of Octroi on betel leaves, kerosene oil, etc., in T.-Narsipur Municipal limits.

Messrs. V. Shama Iyengar and Puttanna, T.-Narsipur Taluk; Varadaiya, T.-Narsipur Municipality and Lakshminaranappa, Mugur Municipality.

Mr. Shama Iyengar.—According to the recent orders of Government, Municipal tax is to be levied on kerosene oil, cocoanut, jaggory, betel leaves, etc. This question was first taken up in 1911 when the Municipal Councillors of T.-Narsipur objected to the levy of the tax. There were petitions to the Deputy Commissioner, the Revenue Commissioner, and the Government against the levy when the Municipal Council actually levied the tax. The question was therefore referred to the council again. They thereupon resolved that the levy was unnecessary and may be deferred until the construction of a bridge across the Cauvery and Kapila was completed. The resolution has been sent up but no orders have been received. We pray for early orders.

Third Member of Council.—No such reference is pending with Government.

Mr. Shamiengar.—The resolution was sent to the President of the District Board; we are told that the papers are pending with Government.

Third Member of Council.—When was the last reference made?

Mr. Shamiengar.—About four months ago, when Mr. Bowring was Deputy Commissioner.

Third Member of Council.—Will be considered after receipt of the resolution. Records will be called for.

SUBJECT No. 168.

Provision in the Budget for the Cauvery-Kapila Bridge in T.-Narsipur Taluk.

Messrs. V. Shamiengar, Puttanna, T.-Narsipur Taluk; Varadaiya, T.-Narsipur Municipality and Lakshminaranappa, Mugur Municipality.

Mr. V. Shamiengar.—No amount has been provided in the Budget for the construction of the bridge across the Cauvery and Kapila rivers which was sanctioned last year. The necessary amount may be provided in the budget of this year for the purpose. The subject has been coming up for discussion for the past 38 years, for the first 28 years of which Government were saying, 'let us see, we will consider' and so on by way of reply. Nine years ago, Sir M. Visvesvaraya as Dewan said that we must not speak about this subject till after the question of the Kannambadi Dam was settled. Towards the end of his Dewanship, the financial condition was not quite encouraging so as to be able to meet the charge on account of the bridge under reference. Afterwards they began to collect statistics and this was the reason for delay. Then the matter was referred to engineering officers since the cost could be very much reduced by brick and masonry work. Early construction was also promised and thereupon the District Board decided to contribute two lakhs and also ask Government for the rest of the cost. The matter was then referred to Government; the member in charge came

and inspected the site; levelling began and a small sum of Rs. 235 was also spent. But in last year's budget no provision for the work was made and Government said that they could do something if District Board undertook the work and even after that promise, nothing was done. Government then said that nothing was possible on account of financial stringency and thus the District Board is left in the lurch. All that we can say is that the T.-Narsipur Taluk is a very unfortunate taluk.

Dewan.—It is not possible to do anything just at at present.

Mr. Shamiengar.—That will not satisfy us, Sir. When we subscribed for the State Loan, we hoped that with the the money that was collected, this and similar works such as this would be taken up. At least as much as was collected in our taluk towards the loan may be spent on improvements to that taluk. Last year we could not discuss this subject and we are thankful for having been given scope for discussion this year; and may we also request that this opportune time may be availed of and some redress offered to us?

Dewan.—This will be done as money becomes available.

First Member of Council.—The Chief Engineer will inspect the locality and submit proposals.

SUBJECT No. 169.

Improvement of Seringapatam.

Mr. Rangaswami Iyengar, Seringapatam Municipality.

Mr. N. Srinivasiengar (in the absence of the mover).—Government have sanctioned in their Order No. 5040—Mi. 21-47-15-15, dated 5th February 1917, that the following works should be carried out for the improvement of the Seringapatam Town:—

		Rs.
(1) Malaria Survey	....	750
(2) Extirpation of Lantana	....	15,000
(3) Filling up existing Karanjis and water-supply to the town	....	75,000

Out of the above, it is ordered that items 1 and 2 should be carried out by the Municipality and item 3 by Government. Malaria Survey has been completed and extirpation of lantana has not yet been done. As regards item 3, Government have filled up the existing Karanjis, but has not taken any steps towards the supply of water to Seringapatam Town. This work may be taken up at a very early date since we have to go 3 or 4 furlongs for fetching water from the stream, and even wells cannot be sunk on account of rocky soil.

Dewan.—Noted.